



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of the Department of Interior. Thank you for your willingness to serve our country, and I wish you good fortune in your new capacity.

I am writing in response to the Department of Interior's decision to indefinitely halt plans to expand offshore drilling operations. We appreciate this decision which temporarily protects South Carolina's pristine coastline and invaluable tourism industry.

Please know that, along with the leadership of every South Carolina coastal municipality, I remain adamantly opposed to seismic testing and the inclusion of any Atlantic Ocean region off the coast of South Carolina in the final 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

To that end, I would like to request a meeting at your earliest convenience with state and local officials in advance of any future decision by the Department of Interior to revisit seismic testing and offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina. We remain grateful for the Administration's willingness to consult with us and work towards a resolution that is in the best interest of both our state and country.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

cc: South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson
South Carolina Congressional Delegation
South Carolina Coastal Mayors
South Carolina Coastal County Council Chairmen